

UPSTAIRS BULLETIN

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An Educational Group

In the field of human endeavor, the teaching and participation in the arts holds unquestionably a unique position. In a world where the balance has swung too far towards political philosophies and science, there is an immediate need for the stabilizing influence of the arts. The arts, when reckoned with seriously, will teach men humility, wisdom, tolerance and magnanimity. They are one of the truly great values of life.

-W.C.

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We wonder how many of our clientele realize how lucky they were to have had both JOAN LAWSON and KIRSTEN RALOV in the same year. We could have chosen a famous dancer to give a "master class" and probably had many more storm our doors - but we chose to have a teacher that was essentially a teacher; one that knew what they were doing. VERA VOLKOVA wrote shortly before she died that she felt she was getting too old and must curtail her activities. MARGARET CRASKE, whom we had for a summer course in the past, also begged out saying that both Stone and Camryn were able to do anything she might be able to do. We thank you Margaret. Both JOAN LAWSON and KIRSTEN would like to return again in the spring.

We had hoped to revive "Like a Weeping Willow" this spring but with the deflection of MATTHEW HOLLAND and SCOTT SCHLEXER to the Ballet Theatre School we will be short of boys for that ballet. The idea of accepting another scholarship when they are already under one with us does not please us one bit. In the past our boys and girls have gone directly into dance jobs rather than accepting a scholarship. We wish them well but they must realize these scholarships are no entry into the American Ballet Theatre, or any other company. NANCY GLYNN, another one who should be working is on a scholarship at the Pennsylvania Ballet.

DARLENE CALLAGHAN has changed from a scholarship at BT to one at the American Ballet School.

DEAN BALOLATO has been working all summer in California in a production of "Camelot". A recent letter from VANESSA MERIA was most enthusiastic about her work in Lubeck, Germany dancing in the Opera and Ballet.

Upon arriving back in the USA JAMES MOORE spent six weeks with Ballet Theatre restaging "Les Noces". He has accepted a position as head of the dance department at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. He expects to rejoin BT in the major cities. We are also happy to announce that ELISABETH WINEBERG will be teaching at Dartmouth College this fall. Both ANNETTE KUBAJAK and CHRISTINE CLARK were June brides and for the moment dropped from the dance scene. JACK TYGETT is involved in a series of productions for the Centennial, pageants to appear about the country next summer. PAULA and ALAN BAKER are back in the area and now have settled down in Milwaukee. Alan will be teaching for the Jack Benny school in Waukegan. LOUISE GLENN was a very welcome visitor recently from San Diego and we had much fun reviving the days when we were in the Stevens Building and she was dancing with BYRON KAY.

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JOHN KRIZA - 1919 - 1975

John Kriza, an international star with the American Ballet Theatre was found drowned near his Florida home in August. Wherever Ballet Theatre toured, whether in Europe or in the States, his typical boyish American Charm made him a success with every audience. He rose in that company when the company developed its stars from within its ranks, no longer possible in this name-craze day of publicity. Kriza remained at the top during his 25 years

with that company. Had Lucia Chase been wiser she might have used him as a coach for the younger artists who merely floundered around.

To us, who remember him as a small boy, back in the early 30's, when we taught for Mildred Prchl in Berwyn and Mary Kane in Oak Park, his early efforts in dance come to our minds. At the Prchl School Stone taught regular ballet classes in which Johnny was the leading light. Howard Sperling (now Nikita Talin) was another aspirant. Towards spring recital time I came in to arrange character dances for them. I still remember a Russian dance I arranged for him in which he did the fastest Chaine turns I've ever seen. Years later he was to ask me to do a Slavonic dance for him to dance at the annual Czech Festival in Berwyn.

During his High School years he went through a period when dance could have lost him but it was Stone's insistence that brought him back to class in Oak Park. Here he danced in several of Miss Kane's "endless" recitals and the very first sailor dance John danced was not "Fancy Free" but one arranged by Stone to Tansman music in the middle 30's.

By 1938 he was in the Page Stone Company and dancing in "Love Song" and in the Opera ballets. Shortly afterwards he was dancing in "Guns and Castanets" in The Federal Theatre Ballet. After this run he danced in my ballets "Thunder in the Hills" and "That Daring Young Man" with the remnants of the Federal Theatre group at Mandel Hall. After this he went on tour with Page Stone on a South American tour. It was upon the return from this tour that he tried out for Ballet Theatre and was accepted. His rise from then on is well known by everyone.

Along about 1944 both he and Ruth Ann Koesun appeared in two shows at the College Inn choreographed by Stone...a Rogers and Hammerstein show and Cole Porter. These shows made the National Magazines and well they might because of Stone's brilliant choreography and staging.

In 1959 he and Koesun appeared with our Stone Camryn Ballet as St. Alphonsus in two dances created for them. Stone created his "Strange New Street" for them to Lora Aborn music which should have been kept in their repertoire but was not. My contribution was a demi-classical pas de deux to the "Aragon Waltz" by Lecuona. Both numbers and their performances added distinction to our evening.

In 1963 Stone choreographed "L'Inconnue" to Poulenc music for John and Ruth Ann and its success and reviews from Claudia Cassidy brought the ballet into the repertoire of Ballet Theatre. It was a poignant sensitive ballet completely submerged in extravagant costumes and scenery when Ballet Theatre got it on stage. The Stone Camryn production was infinitely superior.

It is obvious that we have many cherished memories of his performances besides those held in Ballet Theatre. I do not think that we missed many of his appearances here and my favorite will always be "Billy the Kid" in which he danced with Ruth Ann Koesun. A close second could be "Rodeo" and "Fancy Free" - they are all classic performances.

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August 1975.

Past vacation have been to new and unexplored places, places with interesting scenery, museums and cathedrals, and unfamiliar languages to 'not listen' to. This year was to old familiar areas where past memories and experiences are now impossible to recapture. There were meetings with old friends kept in contact with through correspondence. In retrospect this was a 'people' year and I came back with very little in the camera to mull over. Camera-wise a poor year; memory-wise both heartening and disheartening.

Montana was a garden spot this year. Due to late spring floods and recent heavy rains, the prairies which are usually at this time burnt to a crisp, this year were knee high with waving grasses and flowers. The dryland farmers are enjoying their best crops in thirty years. For me, to visit Montana, once my home with a large family, now mostly departed, holds little for me now. 'Old Timers' now consist of friends little older than myself. Two very dear friends, ALICE SHERLOCK and MARY LAMBKIN are now the only key to the days I remember most. Both are fabulous people. Alice (now ten years over retirement age) has been re-enlisted to teach another year in a rural community. How very wise of the Montana Board of Education to allow her to be useful, and not a striking teacher but a dedicated one. Mary, rocking energetically back and forth in her rocker as if she were driving a team of eight horses (despite her severe arthritis) regaling humorous incidents out of her past

about the Jack Pins savages (the natives). We had an extremely happy hour going away feeling ashamed of ever complaining about any aches and pains. My own family in Montana plagued with ill health and misfortune put a shadow over the beautiful blue sky weather so typical of the Treasure State.

Strikes plagued our trip, first it was Northwest Airlines, always on strike it seems, and then United Airlines from Seattle into Vancouver. United was very rude and not at all helpful, so it was necessary to go the rest of the way by Greyhound bus to complete our journey to Vancouver. This turned out to be pleasant because northwestern Washington is very interesting and picturesque. I was very surprised to see rice fields.

Vancouver is the dream city on the North American continent with just about every good trait a city can possess. Stanley Park, which is one thousand acres in the center of the city with entertainment features for any age group imaginable. Ancient trees, wild wooded sections and flower gardens in profusion. A huge zoo complete with a brace of performing Killer Whales with their special brand of tricks and antics. Equally beautiful is the Queen Elizabeth Park with a landscaped quarry and Greenhouse of tropical plants from all over the world. This park is high above the city and gives one a splendid view of the city and surrounding mountains. It was a joy to revisit the delightful Nitobe Japanese Garden dedicated to a simple natural look. All this cultivated beauty and encircled by high mountain ranges along the sea.

Our friends CAL and SHIRLEY PETERMAN made our stay here a joy. Both BRIAN and his brother KEVIN were summer students in the past. And Brian after a bad try at the University of Utah in dance had a few rough years but we are now happy to report he is a successful broker at 27. He is a thoroughly beautiful person and for some time has been interested in Yogi Meditation. Kevin has remained in dance and is dancing with a small Canadian Group around Toronto. Shirley has progressed from a P.E. teacher to an Art teacher and is apparently a success. Good evidence of this was some of the art work that graced the walls of their Richmond home. If retirement ever becomes a must Vancouver would be a pleasant consideration.

With considerable regret we left here for Portland, flying over Washington's great mountain peaks - Ranier - Baker - Hood and many others all snow-capped.

Oregon is easily the cleanest State in the U.S. when it comes to litter and pollution. Former Governor McCall gets most of the credit but we were informed it was his predecessor who began it and he continued the work. Our city and state could use some of their laws but they need to be enforced with severe penalties. Our unfailing ability to produce rain was proven again here in Portland because it came on instantly.

People-wise here it was my nephew Eddie his efficient wife Lorna, and their three model children that made our stay. We drove over to their ocean front cottage in Lincoln city, where because of the rain and dense fog we spent most of our time around a cozy fireplace visiting. I am happy and grateful there is one branch of my family capable of a good normal family atmosphere.

The day we arrived in San Francisco the Police strike was on and it was a dreadful thing. Fortunately we were off the Yosemite and by the time we arrived back it had subsided somewhat.

The National Parks have always been a pleasant place for college students to work during the summer in beautiful surroundings. But unfortunately those employed by the Musical Corporation of America (who now manage these concessions) were shiftless and lazy. Not at all deserving of the privilege of this kind of work. Many of our group suffered from a virulent food poisoning from their dining rooms. The trip to the Park and away from it towards Carmel was a great bore. The one day allowed one in the Park is breathtakingly beautiful and well worth the trip. But this pleasure is very short lived and the trip back to Frisco has dimmed that pleasure. The Giant Sequoias are really a great sight. The old called 'Grizzly Giant' was born of a seed before the days of Isiah and lives on and on. The tallest tree here is 287 feet high and there are many trees up to 50 feet in circumference. Even more spectacular than the Park trees were the ones in the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park on the way to Carmel. Here we were able to walk among them and feel their silence and immensity.

Back in San Francisco after a night in Santa Cruz and a short visit to the tourist trap, Carmel, and into our room in the St. Francis Hotel with the elevators on the outside of the building, we found the city a trifle more calm. On our first day we were determined to see the Republic of China's exhibit in Golden Gate

Park. The lines were incredible but were orderly and after an hour and a half we got into the show. We had missed it two years ago in Paris - and because of the great masses of humanity - maybe we still missed it. Peeking over people's heads, and under their arm pits is not a way to measure beauty. It was a real battle.

On the three days in San Francisco most of our time was spent with two pupils of the late 30's - LOUIS YETTER and HENRY SWISKO. Both are successes in work much different than what they began in - Louis a fund raiser for underprivileged children, and Henry in labor relations for Bethlehem Steel. We enjoyed being with them and renewing old relationships and talking over the Stevens Building days. A thousand questions about people of that time and the war years. The classes were not large at that time - they were troubled years - so we were closer and it is amazing how many of that time are no longer with us.

A vacation does two things to one - a rest from the daily chores and a chance to see new faces and places and it also makes one glad to get back home to the things you recently wanted to get away from. Chicago did not look too bad although we came back to heat. California could never be home to me - that state does produce freaks.

When one thinks of California it is of earthquakes, fads, kooks and kinkies, smog, mass murders and social changes. The two recent attempts on President Ford's life is only proof that the entire Manson clan should be locked up - and put away from society. Civil liberties has gone beyond in protecting the criminals and the weird ones - and has done nothing for the good people. In this, I am still a Montanian where the vigilantes did away with this kind in a hurry.